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RECENT LEGAL LITERATURE

THE LAWS OF ENGLAND, BEING A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF THE WHOLE LAW OF ENGLAND. By the Right Honourable the Earl of Halsbury, and other lawyers. London: Butterworth & Co. Agents for the United States: Cromarty Law Book Co., Philadelphia. Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y. Vol. I, "Action"—"Bankers and Banking," pp. ccxviii, 647 and Index.

Lord Halsbury in his introduction, expresses the hope that when finished, this work "will furnish a complete statement of the Laws of England." He also affirms that it is "not a mere encyclopedia, it is not a mere collection of cases, but a number of treatises composed by learned lawyers." As the publishers announce that the work will be completed in about twenty volumes, it would seem that it must be somewhat encyclopedic in character and we cannot see that this will be an objectionable quality. Certainly absolutely complete "treatises" on all titles in English law can hardly be expected to be compressed into twenty volumes.

If, however, the work in the volumes which are to follow this is as well done as that in this volume, the result will be a most useful lawyers' library. The writers who contribute to this volume are generally men who have become recognized as authorities on special subjects. The title "Agency" is treated by Judge Evans, who some years since wrote an excellent book on the same subject; "Bankers and Banking" is handled admirably by Sir John Paget, who is understood to be one of the most able counsel on the matters he treats of under this title.

Such examination of the other titles as we have been able to give satisfies us that the authors have ably and conscientiously done their best to make the publishers' statement—"In completeness and accuracy it is intended that this work shall exceed anything before attempted"—perfectly true. The articles are up to date, clearly written, without useless repetitions, but with ample cross-references to other titles; and with very complete references to decisions and statutes. Many aids to ready reference are to be found in the volume—as a complete table of cases, referring to each report of the case; table of statutes; table of contents to each title; ample index, etc., etc.

Nearly two thousand advance subscribers have already interested themselves in this important undertaking, and it certainly promises well.

J. H. B.

EQUITABLE REMEDIES OF CREDITORS IN MICHIGAN. By John C. Dooling, Detroit: Drake Law Book Co., 1908, pp. xi, 347.

A prefatory note by the publisher informs us that the author died after having finished the manuscript of this text and before it was in type; so that the editing, revising, prefacing, indexing, proof-reading, and the like had to be done by others. We are also informed by the same note that the

author conceived the idea of writing the book about eight years ago, while engaged in prosecuting a series of important cases arising out of the same transaction and involving this subject matter.

It will be observed that the scope of the work is very narrow, both as to subject-matter and territory; but it seems to have been very carefully written, and could not fail to be of great assistance to any one prosecuting creditors' bills in the Michigan courts. The citations seem to be quite complete, as the number of cases cited exceeds eleven hundred, though quite a number of decisions by Federal courts and courts of other states on general questions are cited. On a testing of the citations here and there through the book for error in reference or pertinence to the matter under discussion, no errors were found. As the writer was addressing only the lawyers of Michigan, he assumed that all his readers would have access to the official reports, and, therefore made no reference to the reporters or the *Detroit Legal News*. Reference is occasionally made to *Am. St. Rep.* and *L. R. A.*, probably because of the notes to be found there. The list of topics treated follows: Creditors' Bills, Bills in Aid of Execution, Bills by Personal Representatives of Deceased Persons for Benefit of Creditors, Bills by Creditors of Corporations, Equity Jurisdiction in Michigan under National Bankruptcy Law. These topics occupy the first 104 pages. The rest of the text, 186 pages, is devoted to questions of pleading and practice: Parties to Bills (in general) and then separate chapters as to the essentials of several bills above named; Demurrers, Pleas, Answers, Answers in Nature of Cross-Bills, Decrees, Provisional Remedies by Injunction and Receivership.

J. R. R.

TRUE STORIES OF CRIME from the District Attorney's Office. By Arthur Train.
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908, pp. 406.

One Browne, a lawyer and a clever criminal, alleged that his conviction for forgery was due to the misguided enthusiasm of the prosecutor, the author of this volume, whom he characterized as a "novelist" and dreamer. The thirteen stories contained in this book are not, however, dream tales, though they are as interesting as any novels. They demonstrate clearly that fact may be stranger than fiction. The stories are exceedingly well told and give the facts of several well known cases in such a way that it is not easy to lay the book aside when one has taken it up.

The criminal careers of several lawyers—Patrick, Hummel, Browne—are admirably depicted, without, apparently, any departures from the truth, and yet in a style that places the stories far above the average tale of crime.

The volume affords excellent vacation reading.

J. H. B.